

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PUNJAB

# FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

**20th Session**

March 09 - March 13, 2020



**FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK**

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# ABBREVIATIONS

CANs	CALL ATTENTION NOTICES
PML	PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE
PML-N	PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (NAWAZ)
PPPP	PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS
PRHP	PAKISTAN RAH-E-HAQ PARTY
PTI	PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF
POs	POINTS OF ORDER

Total  
Sittings

05

Total Session's  
Time

12

Hours, Six Minutes

Breaks/Suspension

2

Hours, 24 Minutes

Members at the  
outset

48

# PUNJAB ASSEMBLY LEAVES 68% AGENDA UNADDRESSED DURING 20TH SESSION

## ■ 77% Lawmakers Remain Inactive during Session

The Punjab Assembly left 68 percent of its scheduled business un-addressed during its 20th session that continued between March 9, 2020 and March 13, 2020, observes Free and Fair Election Network in its session report.

As many as 84 lawmakers or 23 percent of the total 369 participated in the proceedings of the House by contributing to the agenda and/or participating in debates. The participating lawmakers included 51 of PML-N, 24 of PTI, five of PPPP, three of PML and one of PRHP. The remaining 285 (77 percent) lawmakers did not participate in the proceedings throughout the session. The non-participating members included 157 members belonging to PTI, followed by PML-N (115), PML (7), four independent lawmakers and PPPP (two). The House addressed 32 percent of its scheduled business during the session which included six government bills, two Call Attention Notices (CANs), one resolution and 49 starred questions. Additionally, the House adopted a supplementary resolution during the proceedings to pay tribute to Pakistani women for their contribution to politics and nation building.

The House spent an hour and nine minutes (eight percent) on Points of Order while ten percent (74 minutes) of the proceedings' time was consumed in debate on a legislative proposal. The House did not hold general discussion on Orange Line Metro Train and fixation of its fare which was part of agenda during 4th sitting.

On an average, 210 lawmakers were marked present during each sitting of the 20th session. The PML-N lawmakers staged two protests and a walkout over un-satisfactory reply to starred questions related to Primary & Secondary Health Department. Moreover, PML-N lawmakers identified the quorum on three occasions that led early adjournment of two sittings.

### 1 Session, Duration and Attendance

According to the headcount conducted by FAFEN observer, an average of 48 (13 percent) lawmakers were present at the start and 78 (21 percent) at the adjournment of each sitting. The cumulative duration of the sittings was 12 hours and six minutes. Each sitting, on average, started an hour and 49 minutes behind the scheduled time

Members at the End

78

Maximum Members

210

Government Bills

7

Ordinance

1

and lasted two hours and 25 minutes. The Speaker attended three sittings and presided over the session for seven hours and 11 minutes (59 percent of the proceedings' time) while the Deputy Speaker did not attend any of the sitting. A member of Panel of Chairpersons presided over the session for two hours and 31 minutes (21 percent of the proceedings) while 20% ( two hours and 24 minutes) of the session's time was consumed in breaks or suspension of the proceedings.

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) did not attend any sitting during the session while the Leader of the Opposition remained present in one sitting for 44 minutes (six percent of the total proceedings). The parliamentary leader of PPPP attended four sittings followed by PRHP (one) while none of the sitting was attended by parliamentary leader of PML.

## 2 Assembly Output

This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

### 2.1 Legislation

The legislative business of 20<sup>th</sup> session comprised seven government bills and an ordinance. According to the Rule 91 (6) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Punjab Assembly, Ordinance laid before the Assembly under clause (2) of Article 128 of the Constitution shall be deemed to be a Bill. The House approved two bills while three were referred to the relevant committees for further consideration. A brief description of the passed bills is as follows:

#### 2.1.1 Passed Government Bills

##### (1) The Punjab Medical Teaching Institutions (Reforms) Bill, 2019

This bill aims at improving medical education and healthcare services in medical teaching institutions in the public sector.

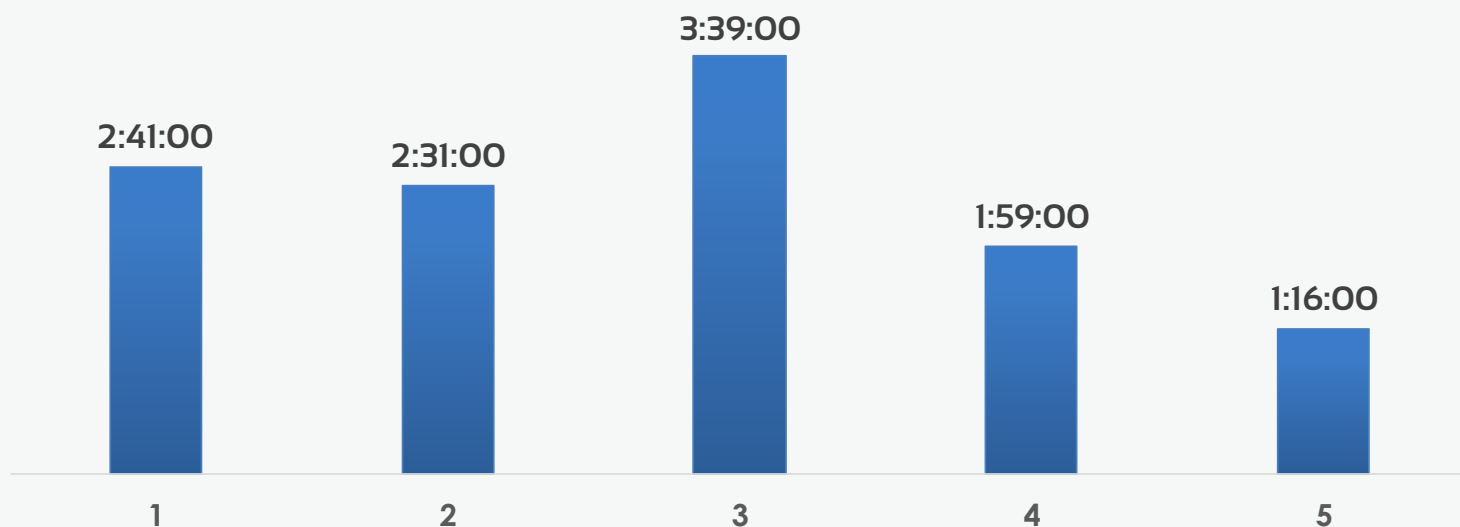
- Date of Introduction: April 29, 2019
- Date of Consideration and Passage: March 11, 2020

##### (2) The Punjab Agricultural Marketing Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019

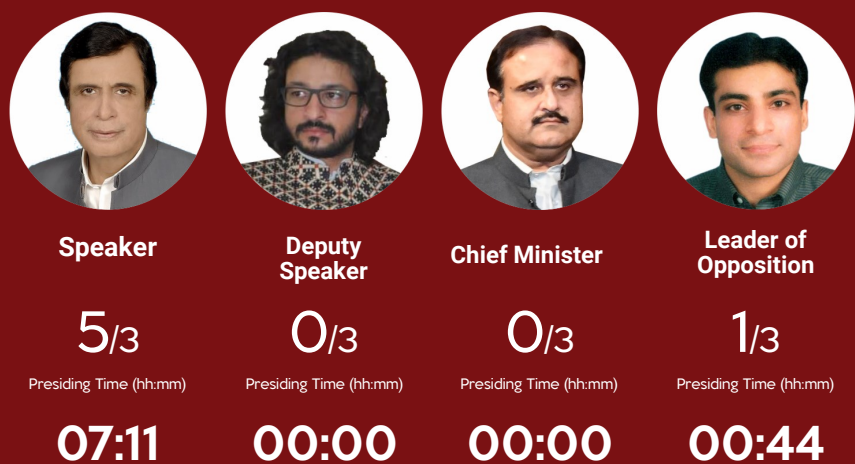
It aims to mend the Punjab Agricultural Marketing Regulatory Authority Act 2018 and to redefine duties and powers of market committees in the province.

- Date of Introduction: March 11, 2020
- Date of Presentation of Committee Report: Passed without referring to the relevant Standing Committee
- Date of Consideration and Passage: March 11, 2020

## SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



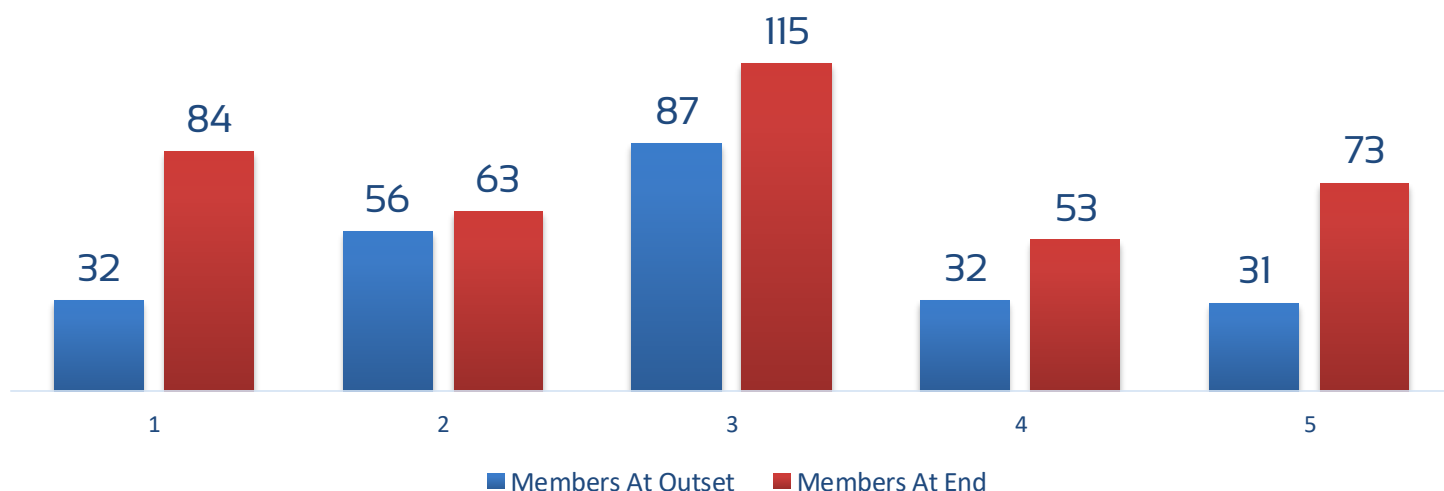
## KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



## PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



## MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE





Private  
Bill

0

Passed  
Bills

2

Introduced  
Bills

3

Reports

2

## 2.1.2 Introduced Bills

The House witnessed introduction of three bills including the Baba Guru Nanak University Nankana Sahib Bill, 2020; the Code of Criminal procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Kohsar University, Murree Bill, 2020. All these bills were referred to the relevant committees for further consideration.

Minister for Law laid the Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighborhood Councils (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 while two bills including the Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Companies Profits (Workers' Participation) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 were not taken up during the session.

## 2.2 Resolutions:

The House adopted two resolutions including a supplementary resolution during the session. One of the private resolution of PML-N legislator expressed condolence over the demise of renowned politician Malik Ata Muhammad Khan. Moved by a PTI lawmaker, the House adopted another supplementary resolution to pay tribute to Pakistani women for their contribution to politics and nation-building. Three lawmakers – PTI (2) and PML-N (one) – also spoke on this resolution for 11 minutes.

The House rejected a resolution of a PTI lawmaker demanding to declare provision of clean drinking water as constitutional right of the citizens. Another resolution of PML-N lawmaker was deferred which was about legislation for paying group insurance amount to retired government servants.

## 2.3 Reports

The House witnessed presentation of two reports during the session. The first report was of a Special Committee-VI was presented in the first sitting while another report of Standing Committee on Higher Education was presented in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting.

3

## Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator's interventions in the House – Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Questions or motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

## 3.1 Questions

The List of Questions scheduled for answers during the session included 175 Starred and 41 un-starred Questions. A Starred Question requires oral as well as written reply. The House took up 49 (28 percent)

Total Resolutions

4

Adopted Resolutions

2

Total CANs

4

Starred Questions

175

Starred Questions for oral answers during the Question Hours held during the session. In addition, the lawmakers asked 105 supplementary questions. According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Punjab Assembly, the first hour of a sitting of the House is reserved for asking and answering of question by the members. The questions appearing on the list were addressed to five departments of the government and their break-up was as following:

Ministries	Starred Questions
Communication and Works	35
Housing, Urban and Public Health Engineering	37
Primary and Secondary Education	38
Revenue	33
Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education	32
<b>Total Questions</b>	<b>175</b>

Of the total 216 questions including starred and un-starred, 152 were sponsored by 42 PML-N lawmakers followed by 34 questions by 15 PTI lawmakers, 22 by four PPPP lawmakers, five by two PML lawmakers and three questions by a PRHP lawmaker.

### 3.2 Call Attention Notices:

The Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs responded to two out of four Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda. These four CANs were related to law and order situation in the province and highlighted the crime incidents in Chakwal, Sheikhpura, Lahore and Kasur.

Three lawmakers belonging to PML-N raised as many CANs while a PTI lawmaker sponsored one CAN.

## 4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization are important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about Points of Order, Quorum and any instances of walkout, protest or boycott during the proceeding.

### 4.1 Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 24 Points of Order (POs) during the session consuming an hour and one minute of the proceedings (eight percent of the session). The issues highlighted in POs were related to the House Business, political, health and governance matters.

### 4.2 Walkout/Protest

The opposition lawmakers staged two protests and a walkout during the session. The lawmakers belonging to PML-N protested for two

Points of  
Order

24

Quorum

3

Protests

3

Walkout

1

minutes during the third sitting against passage of Punjab Agricultural Marketing Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019. They also protested for nine minutes against the Minister for Primary & Secondary Health for not providing satisfactory answers to their starred questions. Later, they staged a walkout on the same issue for an hour.

### 4.3 Quorum

The lawmakers belonging to PML-N identified the lack of quorum on three occasions during the session. On the first instance, PML-N lawmaker pointed out the quorum during first sitting following which the Chair ordered the bells to be rung for five minutes. The quorum was found incomplete upon counting and the House was adjourned. During the fourth sitting, a PML-N lawmaker pointed out quorum which led to suspension of the proceedings for 44 minutes and subsequently adjournment of the sitting.



# About FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.
- With more than 25,000 followers on Twitter and around 144,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

## Free and Fair Election Network

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*This report is based on direct observation of the proceedings of the National Assembly conducted by Free and Fair Election Network. Every effort has been made to keep this report, which deals with on-floor performance of the Members, accurate and comprehensive. Errors and omissions are excepted.*